

AUTUMN 2024

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VICTORIA

Feature

YOUR GIFT
EMPOWERS
YOUNG MINDS
THROUGH
EDUCATION
SUPPORT



—DONOR—
IMPACT
REPORT

STORIES OF HOW YOUR SUPPORT IMPACTS LIVES



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

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THANK YOU FROM OUR CEO

In the face of the escalating cost-of-living crisis gripping our country, we must confront the harsh reality of increasing vulnerability among many individuals and families in Victoria. The rental crisis, coupled with soaring essential costs, has plunged our fellow Victorians into dire situations.

In these challenging times, they turn to us for assistance and we stand resolute in our commitment to supporting Victorians in need.

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria is unwavering in its dedication to empowering children, recognising education as a pivotal step in lifting young people out of crisis. Providing extra support where it's needed most can make a world of difference; transforming the course of young lives.

Last year, we changed the lives of more 6,252 students, yet the demand for our services continues to grow exponentially.

Our dedicated volunteer groups collaborate with communities and schools across Victoria to identify local families in need of support for essentials: school uniforms and shoes, books, laptops, food, travel, academic fees and scholarships. Last year, we provided \$858,557 dedicated to education.

Our members, volunteers and learning services teams tirelessly expand our award-winning education support for students in need, increasing education support hours to 10,641 last fiscal year. Despite our significant efforts, the demand for educational assistance persists.

A sincere thanks to those members of our community who have included a Gift in their Will enabling the Society to continue to support our most vulnerable Victorians. Your generous legacy reflects the way you have chosen to live your life in service of others and ensures that the Society's good work continues long in to the future. Celebrating our 170th year anniversary in 2024, we reflect upon and give thanks to the many individuals, families and organisations who have given so much before us making the Society the integral part of the Victorian community that it is today.

For 170 years, we have supported vulnerable Victorians and our determination to empower more children like Ted's*, whose story you can read in this issue, remains strong.

However, we cannot do this alone. Your support transforms compassion into tangible action and is vital in our mission to provide a brighter future for the families who need it most, ensuring children can return to school fully equipped for a successful academic year.

Together, let's make a lasting impact on the lives of people facing a crisis in Victoria.

Warm wishes,

Jennifer Fitzgerald

Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald AM
Group Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

Figures derived from St Vincent de Paul Society Impact Report 2022-2023



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR GENEROSITY

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR:



\$858,557

Your kindness empowered \$858,557 in education assistance

6,252 STUDENTS

Your support brightened futures for 6,252 students through our education programs



2,565 VOLUNTEERS

Your generosity mobilised 2,565 education program volunteers to support families in need

5,967 HOURS

Your contribution unleashed 5,967 hours of education support



\$529,821

Your gifts enabled \$529,821 utilities bill assistance to the families doing it tough

UPCOMING CHALLENGES

Preparing for a more demanding Autumn ahead



In anticipation of increased demand this year, our volunteers are gearing up, thanks to your generous donations, to meet the growing need for education support.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW



CLICK HERE TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR GOOD





EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS

Accessing quality education and empowering young minds, all thanks to you!

“It’s hard to keep up when they’re growing so fast,” Ted* confided.

Ted’s story is not unique, but it is a testament to the challenges faced by families in our community. Despite his best efforts, the rising costs of education, including uniforms, books and now mandatory in every school – a digital device – has become a source of stress.

Ted, a father of four who, like many other Victorians, found himself at a crossroads not long ago.

His partner’s workplace accident left her in pain and immobile, and Ted became her primary carer, transitioning from a tradesman in heavy industry to managing the household. The financial strain became overwhelming, especially with the growing needs of their four children.

In Victoria, we’re experiencing a range of crises including poverty, food insecurity, in addition to the cost-of-living and mortgage stress.

“We went from being able to manage when I was working to having next to nothing when I became a carer. I want my kids to experience life and not struggle the way I do”, Ted says.

St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies Victoria) is dedicated to empowering children recognising that education is a pivotal step in lifting young people out of crisis.

Through the support of compassionate individuals like yourself, Ted and his family received assistance in securing school uniforms and educational essentials, allowing his children the opportunity to pursue their dreams without the burden of financial hardship.

“Vinnies has been a massive help,” Ted says. “It’s a big relief because it affects your mental health when a bill comes in like the electricity or gas, or the kids say they need something for school, you’re always thinking ‘where am I going to get the money for that’.”

Thank you for being there by their side. Your support ensures that children like Ted’s have the stepping stones they need for a brighter future; it is a lifeline for those navigating their way through tough times, who need it the most, without judgment, without hesitation.

Your gift has the power to shape the future of individuals and families like Ted and many others who rely on the kindness of compassionate donors like yourself.



CONSULTATION SURVEY

As we embark on designing our new Strategic Plan, we are conducting a consultation survey with you, our valued donors. Tell us what you think before 30 April 2024.

YOUR SUPPORT IS TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

With your generous donations, St Vincent de Paul Society runs eight Education Programs across Victoria offering social, emotional and academic support to all students after school hours. Your gift meant we could assist 6,252 students in our last financial year.

The majority of our students are from a multicultural background, often having only recently arrived in Australia. With your help, our amazing volunteers can give each child our full focus which works wonders for the children’s confidence as they begin schooling in a new country. It is incredible to see our young students grow throughout the year.

As one of our Dandenong Education Program students shared “the volunteers are incredible, explaining things to me in a way that makes me understand what we are learning at school and because of this I love going to school a lot more.”

You can make a difference to more young people’s lives. Donate Now.



* Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HUNGER

Last Spring, we introduced you to Miriam* who – through the generosity of donors like yourself – received food for her family to break the cycle of hunger.

In the last 6 months, with your donations, the Berwick Vinnies Soup Van has provided 461,833 meals to over 160,000 people with our volunteers covering over 9,000 volunteer shifts.

Popular food items we offer from our Vinnies mobile pantry include breakfast drinks, pasta, rice, fresh fruit and vegetables, milk and bread, all everyday items one would have in their own pantry, and which are increasingly more difficult to afford.

Last month, our Vinnies volunteers assisted a young man seeking refuge under the trees. Damien, one of our volunteers, approached him extending an invitation to join the other mobile pantry visitors so he could have a meal. It was evident that he was famished and as he ate his meal, our volunteers engaged in conversation, taking the time to truly listen and understand this young person's struggles.

Recognising the ongoing challenges he faced, our volunteers made sure to provide him with nourishment for not only that night, but also for the days to come. We could not feed people going hungry, such as this young visitor, without the generosity of our donors – thank you.

Experiencing such encounters reaffirms our commitment to you our donors who help us make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most.

* Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT TO ANNA*

It's been a difficult Christmas for some, but thanks to you, so many people have been supported.

Your compassion is helping families like Anna's and many other vulnerable people struggling to make ends meet during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Anna was touched by your generosity and wanted to express her gratitude:

"I definitely feel safer knowing that Vinnies and their supporters, like you, are there for vulnerable people like me and my kids. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your kindness."

It is only through your generosity that your gift has helped provide desperately needed support to get through this ongoing cost-of-living crisis and build better futures.



YOUR GIFT HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

Donate today to enable our members and volunteers who work tirelessly to support vulnerable Victorians.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW



DONATE TODAY
VISIT vinnies.org.au/vic
OR PHONE 13 18 12



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